

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 OES-03 AID-05 IGA-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 MC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN
PLANNING IMPROVED NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM

1. IN RESPONSE TO LETTER ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR BY CHIEF OF TRANSIT, SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY, EMBOFF MET WITH SCA TRANSIT ENGINEER SUBHI TEWFIK TO DISCUSS IMPROVED TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR SUEZ CANAL. TEWFIK SAID SCA HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY THREE COMPANIES (ONE AMERICAN) WITH OFFERS TO DO STUDY AND MAKE PROPOSALS FOR NEW SCA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM. (FYI WE KNOW THAT RAYTHEON CORP DISCUSSED SOPHISTICATED VISUAL CONTROL SYSTEM FOR CANAL WITH SCA IN MID-1974) BUT SCA HAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO SEEK USG ASSISTANCE, SPECIFICALLY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TO PLAN AND DRAW UP SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM. THIS DECISION BASED PARTLY ON FACT THAT SCA FEELS OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PANAMA CANAL WILL BE OF USE TO EGYPT.

2. CURRENT TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM DEPENDS UPON 11 SIGNAL STATIONS AND TELESCOPES REPORTING MOVEMENTS TO CENTRAL CONTROL CENTER IN ISMAILIA BY TELEPHONE. SCA WANTS IMPROVED ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR GREATER SAFETY AND TO PREVENT VESSELS FROM EXCEEDING 14 KM PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT IMPOSED TO PREVENT EROSION OF CANAL BANKS.

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TEWFIK SAID THAT CANAL CAN OPEN WITH PREVIOUS SYSTEM BUT SCA

WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE STUDY OF IMPROVED SYSTEM AND HAVE SPECIFICATIONS READY FOR TENDER BY MARCH 1975. SCA HAS STOPPED WORK ON ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AT THE CANAL PENDING COMPLETION OF THIS STUDY SO THAT SYSTEMS CAN BE INTEGRATED. SCA READY TO PAY ALL EGYPTIAN POUNDS EXPENSES CONNECTED WITH STUDY.

3. ACTION RECOMMENDED: BELIEVE IT WOULD BE GREATLY TO OUR ADVANTAGE, NOT ONLY POLITICALLY BUT COMMERCIALY, FOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS OR COE CONTRACTOR TO MAKE PROPOSED STUDY AND DRAW UP SPECIFICATIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SCA AFFIRMATIVE REPLY IN PRINCIPLE ASAP FOLLOWED BY DETAILS OF WHATEVER TEAM WOULD BE ASSEMBLED TO MAKE STUDY. PLEASE ADVISE.
EILTS

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